An overview of the Robert Bertram Serjeant Collections at the University of Edinburgh Main Library

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Abstract

This article is written from an archival point of view, and is meant to give a non-exhaustive overview of the book collection and archival fonds of Robert Bertram Serjeant held in the Library of the University of Edinburgh. His personal papers, in particular, are uncatalogued and not well known. The author hopes that this contribution will inform researchers on the availability of such papers, and give a sense of their contents and the challenges surrounding them.

Résumé

Cet article a pour but de donner une vue d'ensemble, non-exhaustive, de la collection de livres et du fonds d'archives de Robert Bertram Serjeant conservés à la Bibliothèque de l'Université d'Édimbourg. Les documents constituant son fonds privé, en particulier, ne sont pas inventoriés et sont relativement méconnus. L'auteure espère que cette contribution informera les chercheurs de la disponibilité de ces archives et leur donnera une idée de leurs contenus tout en présentant les différentes contraintes liées au catalogage et à la communication de ce fonds.

خلاصة

هذا المقال يعطي فكرة عامة غير شاملة عن مجموعة كتب وأرشيف الباحث روبرت بيرترام سرجنت (Robert Bertram Serjeant)، والمحفوظة في مكتبة جامعة إدنبره (Edinburgh). ويتضمن الارشيف وثائق وأوراق الباحث الخاصة، وهي غير مفهرسة وبسبب ذلك فهي غير معروفة. أتمنّى أن يساهم هذا المقال في تعريف الباحثين بقيمة هذا الأرشيف ومضمونه، وإعطاء فكرة عن صعوبة فهرسته والحصول على إذن بالاطلاع على بعض الوثائق.

Keywords

Robert Bertram Serjeant, Personal Papers, Book Collections, Archival Catalogues, History of Yemen, University of Edinburgh, Arabic Manuscripts, Arabic Linguistics

Mots-clés

Robert Bertram Serjeant, fonds privés, collections de livres, inventaires d'archives, histoire du Yémen, Université d'Édimbourg, manuscrits arabes, linguistique arabe

عبارات رئيسية

روبارت بيرترام سرجنت Robert Bertram Serjeant، مجموعة وثائق شخصية، مجموعة كتب، فهرسة أرشيف، تاريخ اليمن، جامعة إدنبره Edinburgh، المخطوطات العربية، علم اللغة العربية

I. Introduction

The University of Edinburgh is internationally recognised as a leading centre for research on Islamic and Middle Eastern studies, and has one of the largest concentrations of expertise in Britain in this area. Arabic has been continuously taught at the University since 1880, and in 1980 the Department of Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies was established through an amalgamation of the old Departments of Arabic, Turkish, and Persian (established in 1912, 1950, and 1951, respectively). In 1995, an important gift considerably enriched the Library's Islamic collections: the late Marion Serjeant donated her husband Robert Bertram Serjeant's library which consisted of some 5,000 volumes on Islam and the Yemen to the University, together with the bulk of his research papers. There is not any record explaining why they chose the University of Edinburgh; however, Robert Serjeant had a long and personal connection to the city, where he was born and where he studied. Indeed, in 1936 he graduated from Edinburgh University with a Master of Arts in Semitic Languages, having been a student of the scholar of Qur'anic studies Richard Bell (1876–1952)[1].

A project was set up to catalogue Serjeant's books, alongside with the Watt collection, which was donated a few years later. This other significant collection was composed of 1,400 volumes on Islam which had belonged to William Montgomery Watt (1909–2006)[2], lecturer at the University from 1947 and Professor of Arabic and Islamic Studies from 1964 to 1979. The collections were catalogued in three to four years in a MARC format[3] by a part-time cataloguer fluent in Arabic[4]; and the books are now searchable on the Library's catalogue DiscoverEd.[5] Serjeant's books are kept together

[1] University of Edinburgh, *Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies–History*, 2017, https://www.ed.ac.uk/literatures-languages-cultures/islamic-middle-eastern/about/history [accessed 13 June 2018].

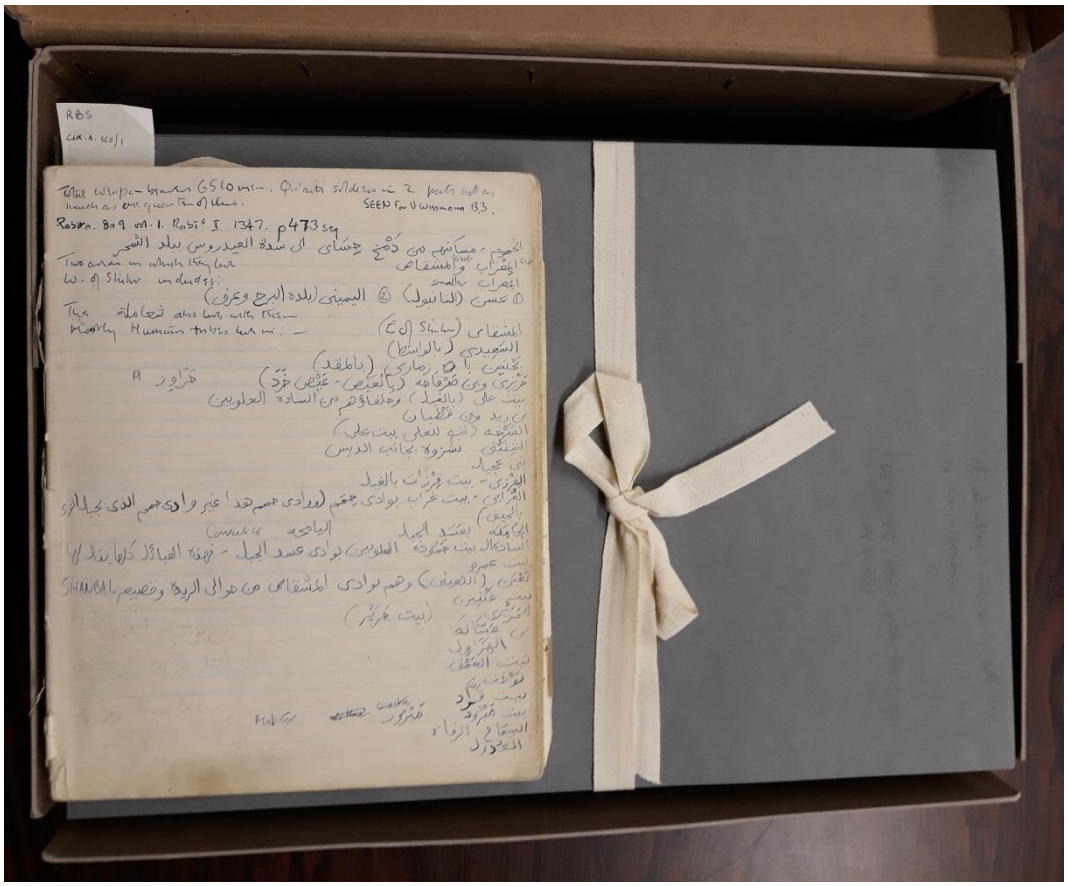
[2] Carole Hillenbrand (ed.), *The Life and Work of W. Montgomery Watt*, Edinburgh, Edinburgh University Press, forthcoming 2019; Richard Holloway, "William Montgomery Watt: A Christian scholar in search of Islamic understanding", *The Guardian*, 14 November 2006, https://www.theguardian.com/news/2006/nov/14/guardianobituaries.highereducation [accessed 14 August 2018].

[3] MARC (MAchine-Readable Cataloging) standards are used by book cataloguers to code information for computer processing. It was developed for bibliographic information found in library catalogues, in order to make records readable by computers and sharable by libraries.

[4] Janice Gailani, now Senior Library Assistant at the University of Edinburgh.

[5] University of Edinburgh, *DiscoverEd*, 2017, https://www.ed.ac.uk/information-services/library-museum-gallery/discovery/discovered [accessed 13 June 2018].

as a specialist collection and mostly relate to Yemen, which is why the collection was of such interest to the University. However, there are many more general Arabic literary works and the volumes cover a wide range of subjects such as Islamic law, Islamic and medieval philosophy, the relationship between Islam and Christianity, history of the Arab world, and Arabic literature.



Ill.1. R. B. Serjeant's documents archived in a low acid box and in acid free folders.

The eleven boxes of manuscripts gifted along with the volumes are mostly composed of papers relating to Serjeant's research. They were in a state of disarray when the University received them: an excerpt from the initial review of the fonds[6] tells us that, "it is all too clear that the material is in no order, and indeed in some considerable disorder, parts of the same item possibly being widely separated. The boxes gave all the impression of being filled by simply tipping material into them from drawers, filing cabinets, etc." Such disorder poses obvious problems in terms of accessibility and conservation. As long as a collection is not properly catalogued, an archive reposi-

[6] This short review was done by Murray Simpson, then Special Collections Librarian, in June 1998. The resulting report was only two pages long, and was merely advising on the next steps of action.

tory cannot guarantee easy access. Archivists need to know what is in a collection to be able not only to advise users, but also to allow or restrict access according to data protection legislation. Cataloguing requires a great deal of resources: professional expertise, archival supplies, and, most importantly, time. A basic "top-level description" was created in 2007 by Assistant Librarian Graeme Eddie to make the collection visible on the online catalogue.[7] This description consisted mainly of an incomplete inventory of the papers, some elements of physical description, and relevant indexing terms. This resource was useful, however it was not a proper archival catalogue—the papers needed in particular to be arranged and contextualised. Therefore, a survey and a complete listing were necessary to gain a better intellectual and physical control of the fonds, and prepare it for future projects.

After a more detailed review of Serjeant's papers done in March-May 2018 by the author of the article, Cataloguing Archivist at the Special Collections of the University, it became clear that disarray was not the only barrier to cataloguing and thus to accessing the collection. Several other issues were noted: firstly, it was obvious that the housing was unsuitable for archival material, and that the files were in dire need of sorting and appraisal. Secondly, there was very little contextual information on the collection as a whole and on the different documents, all the more so that it is now impossible to contact the original creator and donor for more details.[8] Thirdly, it became apparent that it would be extremely difficult to catalogue the fonds accurately and exhaustively without any specialist knowledge and fluency in Arabic. Finally, many files contain sensitive information on living individuals and thus are subject to Data Protection legislation, which means that some sections will have to be completely closed to the general public.

Knowledge of a particular field or topic is extremely useful to catalogue a fonds, however an archivist cannot be an expert on every subject. Therefore, researching the life, career, and bibliography of the creator of a fonds is essential before cataloguing certain specialist collections. It is of course more difficult when the original order has been lost, and when there is little contextual information on the files and no inventory or explicative notes produced by the creator(s) themselves. This is the case for Serjeant's fonds, which will require a solid knowledge of Arabic linguistics and literature, as well as of the history of Yemen and South Arabia in general. Half of the collection consists of untitled files with hundreds of loose notes in Arabic and in English (typed as well as manuscript), with no context, seemingly no beginning and no end, seldom a

[7] University of Edinburgh, *Papers of Professor Robert Bertram Serjeant*, Coll-1062, 2007 (last updated in 2018), in: https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/resources/537 [accessed 26/07/2018].

[8] Robert passed away in 1993, and his wife Marion in 2013. See "Obituaries", *British-Yemeni Society Journal* 21, 2013, p. 64, in:
http://b-ys.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/BYSJ%202013%2CThe%20British%20Yemeni%20Society.pdf
[accessed 18 June 2018].

date, and no order inside the files themselves. The subjects are very varied and it is sometimes hard to know who the author of these notes is.

II. A first inventory: main categories

Once research had been done, the author of this article was able to produce an informed and meaningful inventory. This step consists in identifying and describing files or items one by one, in the order in which they are found. This is also the opportunity to ensure the fragile papers will not degrade over time by removing metal paperclips and placing the documents in suitable containers and folders, that is to say custom-made low acid boxes and acid-free folders, as opposed to acidic folders which are commonly used in everyday life. This process was carried out over the course of three months in March, April and May 2018, at the same time as the inventory.

Re-housing and making an inventory enable the processor to review the contents of a collection and to establish rough series. The Serjeant papers could be divided in four main categories:

- Papers relating to academic research, containing Serjeant's own research notes, copies of articles and talks, newspaper clippings, reports, drafts, theses, and correspondence relating to publications.
- Files containing typed and manuscript notes on the political and military situation in Yemen in 1960s, supposedly from what Serjeant heard and read in news sources, and through his informants on the field.
- Photocopies of Arabic manuscripts from various libraries around the world; a small number of them annotated by Serjeant.
- Hundreds of newspaper copies (mainly *The Times*) relating to the Arabic and Islamic world.

III. A first inventory: going into more detail

1. The first category: research papers

The first category, which we will call "research papers", is the most significant part of the collection, representing fifty-one files out of a total of one-hundred and twenty-two. It is composed of papers dating from 1949 to 1995 linked to Serjeant's academic career and production. Beyond this, the contents of this section are quite varied: it includes original documents such as notebooks with Serjeant's own manuscript notes in Arabic and English, many loose research notes on various subjects, a file containing typed handouts from a "ten week Aden Colloquial Arabic Course", typescript talks and reports relating to seminars in Islamic studies, chronologies, and a small amount of correspondence between Serjeant and other academics.

Covered subjects relate to linguistics, literature, ethnology, religion and sociology mostly in Yemen and in particular in Aden. Examples of files include a folder containing documents on the ʿAwḏalī Treaty and ʿAwḏalī tribe, Serjeant's Arabic manu-

script transcription of *Kitāb al-tabyīn fī al-man*, a typed list with handwritten annotations entitled "Fish and fisheries" in Yemen[9], notes on "Hadrami and Yemeni merchants" and on "Qāḍī Ismāʿīl al-Akwaʿ—unpublished proverbs", a notebook entitled "Disputation between Qat and Coffee" by Aḥmad b. Muḥammad al-Muʿallimī, one folder of correspondence and documents relating to the publication of an *Encyclopaedia of Arab Maghreb*, some correspondence and notes relating to Arabic manuscripts about magic, etc. Most of the files in this section of the collection are open to the public as they do not contain any sensitive data on identifiable individuals, however some sorting and appraisal work still needs to be done.

2. The second category: political notes

The second series, temporarily entitled "political notes", represents twenty files out of one-hundred and twenty-two, and is one of the most intriguing sections of Serjeant's papers. It mostly consists of hastily typed notes and extracts from broadcast and newspapers with very little context. It is sometimes difficult to know who produced these notes—presumably Serjeant, but how to be sure when it is typed and when it is impossible to recognise his handwriting? In any case, it would appear that Serjeant paid close attention to the events that were unfurling in Yemen in the 1960s, during the North Yemen Civil War. It would make sense to assume he was either the author or the recipient of these notes, especially since it is known that it was not uncommon for him to have informants on the field[10]. One loose note actually states the following:

> My informants have been largely Royalists—but in the Royalist Yemen there is a great deal of free plain speech and plenty of criticism, both of what is happening at the moment, and of the faults of the old regime even by those most loyal to it. [...] I have however had informants actually on the Republican side or those who have defected from it to save their lives. I have discussed the situation with Adenese hostile to the Imamate, and convinced Republicans. I have also talked to Egyptians [...]. From the deserters or prisoners I have also been able to form some conception of how the Egyptians regard matters.
>
> (Redacted for Data Protection purposes. Temporary reference: *Papers of Professor Robert Bertram Serjeant*, 1940-1997, "Loose notes on Yemen War" [folder], Coll-1067 box 9. Edinburgh University Library).

The contents include, but are not limited to: detailed accounts of the events of the war (almost day-by-day), excerpts of interviews of ousted President ʿAbd Allāh al-

[9] See the article by Philippe Provençal in this volume.

[10] Gerald Rex Smith, "Obituary: Professor Robert Serjeant", *The Independent*, 12 May 1993, in: https://www.independent.co.uk/news/people/obituary-professor-robert-serjeant-2322421.html [accessed 13 June 2018].

Sallāl (d. 1994),[11] typescripts, notes, correspondence sent to Serjeant, testimonies of people involved in the wars in Yemen in the 1960s, extracts from contemporary newspapers, reports, and minutes of meetings at the Foreign Office. It also includes loose notes on a wide variety of subjects such as the links between Yemen, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia in the early 1960s, the 1962 *coup d'état* and Egyptian involvement, the use of poison gas by Nasser, Egyptian strikes, American involvement, and others. More generally, the notes contain comments on the religious, social, military, and political situation in Yemen in the 1960s, and on the events of the war in 1967.

Most of these files contain information which can be classified as "sensitive" according to Data Protection legislation, on named individuals who may still be alive today. In these instances, guidance prescribes that archival document be closed for 75 years (100 years if the individual was a minor at the times of the facts). Most files will therefore not be open to the public before 2045, with a few exceptions such as excerpts of newspapers and transcripts of broadcast. Some other files contain historical facts already widely known but also contain information classified as personal data, and will only require the reader to sign a Data Protection form. The presence of Arabic in the collection poses an additional problem regarding Data Protection: a non-Arabic speaker will not be able to identify potentially sensitive personal information. This is why specialist skills are needed to catalogue the collection.

3. The third and fourth categories: facsimiles of Arabic manuscripts, and newspapers issues

The third section represents roughly thirty files, and is composed of facsimiles of Arabic manuscripts, which can be divided in three types:

a. copies of clearly identifiable manuscripts,

b. copies of unidentified manuscripts,

c. and copies of manuscripts with handwritten annotations.

These three categories will be treated differently by an archivist.

a. The first one covers facsimiles of manuscripts with a title and/or a reference and a provenance, which makes it simple to identify and locate. An example would be the Arabic manuscript bearing the reference "Arabe 6738" and the stamp of the Bibliothèque nationale de France (BnF), enabling us to identify it as the *Kitāb waṣāyā al-mulūk wa-abnā al-mulūk fī walad Qaḥṭān b. Hūd al-nabī* kept at the BnF in Paris. These

[11] Cf. Robert D. Burrowes, "Al-Sallal, President Abdullah", and "Al-Sallal Regime and Era", *Historical Dictionary of Yemen*, Lanham (Md.)/London, Scarecrow Press, ser. "Asian Historical Dictionaries", 17, 1995 [1st imp.], pp. 319–320, and 320–322.

copies can generally be disposed of, especially if they are easy to access and made available online, as it is the case for this manuscript[12].

b. The second category consists of facsimiles of manuscripts which cannot be easily identified, with no title and no provenance. Those need to be seen by an expert in Arabic manuscripts to be identified. They cannot be disposed of as they may be rare, or very difficult to access. For example, a manuscript copy bears the handwritten note "Cairo Gen.2AH/CUR, T-S Arabic 39-345", a shelf-mark of the Taylor-Schechter collection in Cambridge[13].

c. Finally, we find facsimiles of manuscripts which may or may not be accessible elsewhere, but which contain handwritten notes and comments added by Serjeant himself. When this is the case, the copy becomes an original document and thus has to be kept as an archival item. We have for instance a copy of a manuscript of Bā Ṣabrayn, and a manuscript identified by a note merely stating "Anonymous".

Lastly, two boxes of the Serjeant's fonds contain newspapers issues dating from 1951 to 1982: seventy issues of *The Times* (mainly special reports on countries and subjects relating to the Middle East and the Muslim World, from 31 July 1951 to 1 June 1982); four issues of *The Scotsman* on Algeria (28 November 1978) and Saudi Arabia (1 November 1977); single issues of the *Daily Express* (1966), the *Observer Review* on The Shah (1975), and the *Financial Times* on Oman (1977), as well as an issue of *New Society Magazine* containing an article by Serjeant entitled "Yemen Letter—The King's Story" (27 August 1964; ill. 4); Arabic newspapers: *Al-Falaq* (The Dawn 12 December 1956, 23 January 1957, and 7 August 1966), the *Saudi Gazette* (26 November 1977), the *Times* of Oman (6 November 1980), the *Aden Chronicle* (21 April 1960), and a small number of others entirely in Arabic. Additionally this section contains many newspaper clippings from 1962 to 1967, including a few on archaeologist and oilman Wendell Phillips (1921–1975).[14]

For this section, sorting and appraisal will have to take place as well: the cataloguer will dispose of newspapers which are easily available elsewhere. As a rule, while cataloguing a collection, archivists do not keep reproductions of material where the original exists (except when annotated), published articles and books (except when annotated), duplicates, scraps or scribbled notes with no context. However, it is im-

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[12] "*Kitab wasaya al-moulouk wa abna al-moulouk min aulad al-malik Kahtan ibn Houd al-nabi*, les commandements des rois des Arabes antéislamiques de la race de Kahtan, fils du prophète Houd" (952 AH) [manuscript] Arabe 6738, Bibliothèque nationale de France, Département des Manuscrits, in: http://archivesetmanuscrits.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/cc336910 [accessed 7 June 2013].

[13] See Colin F. Baker & Meira Polliack, *Arabic and Judaeo-Arabic manuscripts in the Cambridge Genizah collections. Arabic Old series, T-S Ar. 1a-54,* Cambridge (UK), Cambridge University Press, 2001, p. 340, 'poetic expression, possibly part of a draft letter'.

[14] W. M. Freeman, "Wendell Phillips, Oilman-Archeologist", *The New York Times*, 5 December 1975, https://www.nytimes.com/1975/12/05/archives/wendell-phillips-oilmanarcheologist-the-american-lawrence.html [accessed 14 August 2018].

portant to make a list of everything that was disposed of so that researchers are aware it was included in the collection. The newspapers that are not easily available elsewhere and that are valuable for research will not only be kept, but will also receive priority for digitising.

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AEO 2
DEO KKJ: 13/11/56

Al-Falaq

SCHOOL OF THOUGHTS

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Good will in action is the moral way of life.

{ THE DAWN }

[ESTABLISHED 1929]

EDITOR
A. Hamoud Harthy

Pt. MANAGERS :
A HAMOUD HARTHY
AND
HILAL MUHAMED BARWAN

Vol. 38 | Zanzibar, Wednesday 12th December 1956 — | No.

HIS HIGHNESS Ascends The Throne

December 9, is a memorable day when our beloved and well-esteemed Sultan, Seyyid Sir Khalifa bin Harub has ascended the throne of Zanzibar.

His Highness the Sultan has ascended the throne of Zanzibar on 9th December 1911 and therefore His Highness is on the throne for 45 years. May God give him long life and keep him in good health to reign over us in peace.

We pray the Almighty to widen his Sultanate under His guidance and to keep this country clean of the laws, that are not in accordance with Allah and His Prophet's injunctions. We pray God to give this Sultanate self-government and ultimate independence, AMEN.

In connection with this great day we beg to present our loyalty to His Highness the Sultan, his son the Heir-apparent and his grandsons as well as our warmest and heartiest congratulations.

We pray that his subjects should continue to enjoy his wise guidance and his well-reputed leadership.

WILL THE DANGER BE AVOIDED?

We are faced today with this question. Is the world going to be free from the general fear of the Third World War? And the hopeful answer is "Yes, if the big nations are truly and sincerely determined to establish peace, or at least there can be found those whose minds are free from conctous intentions and who have imperialism as their goals.

Yet it appears to us that the two points mentioned above are far on the horizon in all great nations of the world. And it is crystal clear to every thinking mind, that the small nations, wherever they are, are the victims of personal greed and the goals of imperialism. We see today that the great nations either give promises to small nations in order to influence them and use them both or foist intriguously behind the scene and show the world that they are ignorant of what is taking place.

With these facts in mind, therefore, which are in every way contrary to peace and its principles, there is a big question mark whether the fire of war is going to be extinguished.

The United Nations Organisation can only exercise its power on weak nations but it is not possible for it to deal measure to measure with strong nations. This is the one obstacle that delays the world peace on the one hand, and accelerates the danger on the other.

And yet radios of different places are regularly broadcasting propagandas to lead ostray the general opinion of the people who with the long experience and progress in education, are today wide awake to receive the spread of these propagandas as true. There ought to be less therefore and instead of the great effort taken and money spent to spread these, they should spare them on the improvement of the living of the poor class of people. In doing so, perhaps, they could be near to the stage of winning the love and understanding of the people who will realize what good has been done to them and so concur to repay it. For what people wish to see today is efforts exerted in preserving peace and not efforts to kindle the fire of a war that will annihilate every thing, and God save our souls.

H. E. IS BACK

We warmly welcome His Excellency Sir Henry and Lady Potter who have arrived on 28th November from leave which they spent in U. K.

We hope that with his presence here the problems which still remain unsolved will soon be thrashed out.

Where Is Justice?

The present condition which the house owners have to tolerate is calling for sympathy and justice from our government. It is a condition which is abhorred by every sincere person.

During the last World War Immergency laws were introduced depriving house owners of the power to make their tenants vacate their houses even though they themselves have no other place of shelter. House owners again are not allowed to increase any percentage on the rent originally agreed upon between them and their tenants' And, at the time these laws were introduced, the house owners were assured that these laws are only there temporarily to suit war conditions and as soon as there was improvement of those conditions these laws would not be enforced.

continued on page 2

Ill.2a. *Al-Falaq* 12 December 1956, recto.

(قل اعوذ برب الفلق من شر ما خلق - صدق الله العظيم)

حكمة الاسبوع

من طمع فقد استعبد نفسه

الفلق

رئيس التحرير المسؤول
عبدالله بن حمود الحارثي

المدير الجريدة عبد الله بن حمود الحارثي
وهلال بن محمد البرواني

تاسست بزنجبار عام ١٣٤٧ هـ ١٩٢٩ م

جريدة أسبوعية : سياسية ، أدبية ، اجتماعية ، اقتصادية ، علمية

(الاربعاء) ٩ جمادى الاولى ١٣٧٦ هـ الموافق ١٢ دسمبر ١٩٥٦ م

عيد الجلوس

يوم ٩ ديسمبر كان عيد الجلوس لمولانا المعظم السيد القطاع خليفه بن حارب بن ثويني ابقاه الله ملكا على عرش زنجبار وتوابعها على الدوام وسلطانا على امة سلطنته ، قد ارتقى عظمته على عرش زنجبار يوم تاسع ديسمبر ١٩١١ و بذلك الان يدخل عظمته في السادس والاربعون عاما منذ ان كان ملكا على شعبه اطال الله عمره والبسه ثوب العافية والهناء ونسال الله سبحانه عز وجل ان يوسع سلطانه على ممالكه تحت رعاية الله وان يطهر بلاده من الاحكام الغير الله ورسوله وان نراه مستقلا بامر الكريم انه سميع الدعاء و بهذه المناسبة نقدم تهانينا القلبية وولاءنا لعظمته ولولي عهده وانجاله الكرام وان يمتع رعاياه بقيادته الحكيمة وارشاداته المحمودة الى الامام

فاين العدالة

الحالة التي فيها وعليها اهل المنازل تتطلب النظر بعين العطف والعدالة من حكومتنا الحالة التي تسيير كل منصف وعادل لقد سنت و نفذ في خلال الحرب العالمية الماضية تحريم صاحب المنزل اخراج اي مستاجر من منزله حتى ولو كان لا مأوى يأوى فيه وحرم صاحب المنزل ايضاء زيادة اي اجور عن الاجرة التي اتفق عليها وقد قيل لاصحاب المنازل بان هذا القانون موقتا وسيلغى حالا بعد وضع الحرب اوزارها وقد مضت اثنى عشر عاما الان والقانون بقي كما كان لم يلغى ولم يغير الا قد سمحت الحكومة اكراما منها لهم من عامين زيادة من المائة خمسة وثلاثون لاغير وبهذه المناسبة نقول الحكومة تعلم علم اليقين بان اكثر المواد للبنائية قد ارتفعت الى ستة اضعاف او اكثر والحكومة تعلم ايضاء بان جميع الموظفين قد رفعت رواتبهم زيادة كبيرة في ثلاث او اربع مناسبات تقريبا فبذلك نقدم هذه الأسئلة فنطالب الاجوبة عليها

ما الذى فكرت الحكومة في حالة اهل المنازل ؟

هل يجوز على الحكومة النظر الى جهة ضد جهة اخرى ؟

وهل الحكومة ستضمن لاهل المنازل الحصول على مواد بنائية تناسب ما سمح لهم من الاجور ؟

الى متى نوت الحكومة دوام هذه القوانين الظالمة ؟

هل الحكومة بنفسها ترى بقاء مثل هذه القوانين التى تميل الى جهة ضد جهة اخرى عادلة ومنصفة ؟

وهل الحكومة من نيتها استعمال مشروع بولشفيك حق هذا يضاف الى حق هذا ؟

ختاما نناشدها بان تلغى هذا القانون فورا وان لا تعمل شيئا اه برضي الجميع لانقاذ هذه الازمة

هل ستزول الاخطار ؟

نتساءل اليوم هل ستزول الاخطار من العالم ؟ اخطار نشوب حرب عالمية ثالثة فالجواب نعم ستزول ان وجدت لدى الدول العظام نية حسنة صادقة للامان وان وجدت كذلك نفوس خالية من المطامع ونوايا الاستعمار ولكن في ما يظهر لنا هاتين النقطتين بعيدتين من الوجود في جميع الدول العظام التى نعنيها والادلة امام كل عاقل كالشمس رابعة النهار نرى اليوم الدويلات الصغار دايما تكون طعمة للمآرب الشخصية او للمطامع الاستعمارية اما توعد بعض الدول لاندماجها لها او تدس الدسايس من وراء الستار وتظهر للعالم كان لاعلم لها في ذلك وهذا يناقض موقف السلام ومبادئه تمام التناقض فكيف تنطفي النيران يا هل ترى ومن وراءها تحشى ؟ اما جمعية الدول المتحدة تنفذ مقرراتها على الضعفاء وليس في امكانها تنفيذ ماتقرره باغلبية ساحقة على الاقوياء فمثل هذه العوايق هي السبب الوحيد لتاخر السلام وتقدم الاخطار وعادة تذاع من مختلف الاذاعات دعايات لخدع الراى العام من قلوب الشعوب فالشعوب اليوم يقضة تمام اليقضة بفضل التجارب الطويل والتقدم في العلوم فلا يوجد من يصدق الاكاذيب والدعايات الملفوفة فليخفف هذا الشان و بدلا من تلك التكاليف الهايلة للدعاية لتنفق هذه التكاليف لتحسن مستوى معيشة الطبقة السفلى من البشر فلعلها تجد من تلك النفوس ما يقربه الى الميل والمحبة والاعتقاد بان كل عامل ذلك يستحق الجزاء و بذلك يقرب القول الى الحقيقة و بهذا تريد الامة اليوم ان ترى الجهود تبذل لحفظ السلام ورعايته بدلا من الجهود التي تبذل والاسباب لاشعال نار حرب طاحنه التي لاتبقى ولا تذر العياذ بالله

لايسع السكوت

تسلمنا عدة شكاوى منها كتابيا ومنها شفاهيا عن الصعوبات التي تتحصل عليها الاهالى لمواجهة ... س لاشغال مهمة الزمتهم الى

Ill.2b. *Al-Falaq* 12 December 1956, verso.

Al-Falaq

{ THE DAWN }

[ESTABLISHED 1929]

SCHOOL OF THOUGHTS

x x x x x

Things are unbearable just until we have them to bear.

EDITOR
A. Hamoud Harthy

Jt. MANAGERS :
A HAMOUD HARTHY
AND
HILAL MUHAMED BARWAN

Vol. 38 | Zanzibar, Wednesday 23rd January 1957 — | No

GENERAL ELECTION

General Election is daily drawing near and the Supervisor has already arrived. The question is, what have you done regarding it up to now?

Our readers should carefully consider this question. As we see others taking deep interest in this affair, we shall be pleased to know if you on your part have been interested to know a little about this General Election. Some of them have taken the trouble of approaching this Supervisor personally; and some of them have discussed the matter with him and so on and so forth.

Every one should understand that his delay in taking interest in this matter shows his lack of interest or inattention to his undaunted community. We should go forward together and do our duty urge others who seem to be asleep, for every one of you is responsible of the other,

The Bill of the said Election was distributed in the last month. It contains every thing that one Should know about it, and we always keep on writing about it in order to guide you so that you can be able to keep pace with what is going on.

For instance, we have written in our issue of 19th September 1956 under the caption of "A Wish Realized" in which we made clear the promises given by the Ag. British Resident, Mr. Alford to the representatives of the Arab Association when they interviewed him on 10th September 1956 seeking the approval of the Colonial Secretary for the same. His promise was that on 22nd December the Bill of Election would be distributed in the Legislative Council when it will be put forward for appro-val.

February 11, 1957 is appointed for receiving applications for registrations as electors in the first constituency and 25th March will be the end of registration. Posting of preliminary lists will be on 15th April, final lists and issue of election writs on 22nd June July 1, is reserved for nomination of candidates, and 21st July is the Polling day.

The Supervisor of Election. Mr. J. C. Penney is always present in the Bharmal Building on the Creek Road. He has begun his work by visiting districts and Pemba for the purpose of fixing centres for Election. He has chosen six places to be the centres, four in Zanzibar and two in Pemba. It is estimated that those who will have the qualification to vote are between 30,000 to 40,000 people. Mr. Penney is willing to see any one and to answer any question regarding Election. We have a fervent hope that every body will go through this question and try to understand it.

The End Of Sir Anthony Eden

Sir Anthony the Prime Minister of Britain and the days of his government have come to an end. He resigned from all the Cabinet offices of the British Parliament. and refused the Earldom which the Queen presented to him. This was expected by all especially the Muslims in all the world, who sent special prayers to heaven for the overthrow of all aggression. God is quite aware of what is going on in the earth and he responded to the prayers of His servants.

Sir Anthony Eden is 59 years of age and he served in the Cabinet for nearly 40 years which passed without bearing any fruit in history except what every body knows of his recent activities in the Middle East. The end of 1956 marked the end of his career by marring the long friendship of British State with the other states.

Sir Anthony Eden had a serious operation of the lung when he was the Foreign Secretary and later he had another serious operation i America.

Sir Anthony Eden had 21 months in his last office and of all the Prime Ministers of Britain he was the most robust and courageous. At the end of the last year he took to attack innocent and peaceful countries which defend their right without benefit January 9, 1957 will be remembered.

The New Prime Minister

Following the advice given. the Queen has appointed Mr. Harold MacCmillan as Prime Minister. Mr. Griffith, Labour pointed out that this new policy of having the Queen in the politics is out side the laws of Britain and might upset laws of the country. Perhaps, the Labour Party might conven a debate of this act on the part of the Queen who has nothing to do with the polities and who had chosen her minister between two gentlemen.

Mr. MacCmillan is 62years of age. He has a sound knowledge of political affairs. He has 30 years in Parliament on the Conservative side, but he kept himself aside from the step taken by Sir Anthony in the Middle East.

The MacCmillan family are well known publishers.

countinue on page 2

Ill.3a. *Al-Falaq* 23 January 1957, recto.

قل اعوذ برب الفلق من شر ما خلق – صدق الله العظيم)

حكمة الاسبوع

من سل سيف البغي قتل به

الفلق

رئيس التحرير للشؤون
عبدالله بن حمود الحارثي

المدير الجريدة عبد الله بن حمود الحارثي
وهلال بن محمد البرواني

تاسست في شهر عام ١٣٤٧ هـ ١٩٢٩ م

جريدة أسبوعية : سياسية ، أدبية ، اجتماعية ، اقتصادية ، علمية

(الاربعاء) ٢١ جمادى الثاني ١٣٧٦ هـ الموافق ٢٣ يناير ١٩٥٧ م

حول الانتخابات العامة

الانتخابات العامة تقترب من يوم الى يوم وهاهو المشرف عليها قد وصل وما عملت حتى الان ايها القارئ الكريم فمعنى هذا السؤال هو هل اهتممت بمعرفة شيء من قبيله لان نرى كثيرا من الجاليات الاخرى مهتمة اشد الاهتمام لهذا الشان فمنهم من يواجه هذا المشرف الخبير ومنهم من يناقش معه ومنهم ومنهم فاعلم بان تاخرك مضرة لجيلك الباسل فعليك التقدم للقيام نحو الواجب ونبه غيرك فان كل راع مسؤل عن رعيته فاعلم بان مسودة القانون لهذا الانتخاب قد وزع في الشهر المنصرم يشمل على جميع المواد الازمة فيجب عليك اذن معرفته او معرفة شيء منه ونحن لازلنا ولانزال نكتب شيء عن هذا الشان الغرض من ذلك التحريض وعدم التاخر عن القافلة فقد كتبنا بعددنا الصادر يوم ١٣ صفر من هذا العام تحت عنوان تحقيق الامنية ولقد بينا عن المواعيد التي تعهد بها نايب المقيم البريطاني مستر الفورد عند ماقابل وفد الجمعية العربية وذلك صباح الاثنين ٤ صفر الموافق ١٠ – ٥٦ لاخبارهم عن موافقة وزير المستعمرات بذلك وذلك يوم ٢٢ – ١٢ – ٥٦ يوم نشر قوانين الانتخابات للمصادقة عليها وجميع افكار المجلس ستحافظ لهذه القوانين عند عرضها للمصادقه يوم ١١ – ٢ – ٥٧ ستقبل اوراق المعروضة لطلب تسجيل الناخبين يوم ٢٥ – ٣ – ٥٧ سيكون اخر يوم لموعد تسجيل اسماء الناخبين يوم ١٥ – ٤ – ٥٧ ستعلق العرض لجميع الناخبين الذين سجلو اسماءهم يوم ٢٢ – ٦ – ٥٧ ستعلق العرضة الاخيرة مع توزع اوراق الانتخابات يوم ١ – ٧ – ٥٧ سيعلن اسماء المرشحين للانتخاب وسيجرى الانتخاب عليها يوم ٢١ – ٧ – ٥٧ ستكون ام الانتخابات والنتيجة ستعلن عنها حالا بعد فراغ عملية فرز الاوراق .

فالخبير للاشراف على هذه الانتخابات هو مستر بينى وهو دايما موجود في بناية بهار مل ادارة د . س وقد بدأ مهمته اذ زار بمبا والاريك لاجل قسم مراكز الانتخابات وقسمها الى ستة مراكز اربعة بزنجبار وقصمين بمبا و يقدر الذين سيعطون اصواتهم ما بين ٣٠٠٠٠ و ٤٠٠٠٠ نسمة وهو مستعد لمقابلة اي واحد للسوالات والاستفهام فالمراد من الجميع درس هذه المسالة ومعرفتها والسلام عليكم وعلى من اتبع الهدى

ختام سار ايدن

سار ايدن وايام حكمه الان سار ايدن قد تخلى عن جميع مهام منصبه الا وهي رأسة الوزارة لبريطانيا العظمى وغيرها في البرلمان وقد طلب بنفسه الغاءه من جميع المهمات الحكومية ورفض الشرف الذى منحته جلالة الملكة له وهذا امر قد تفاءل به الكثير من سكان المعموره وبالاخص المسلمين في جميع نواحي العالم كانت المسلمين رافعة ايديها متوسلة الى الله بانتقام كاطاغ معتدي فاقتضت سبحانه وتعالى لم يكن غافلا قد اجاب دعاءهم كما قال في كتابه العزيز ادعوني استجب لكم وسار ايدن هذا هو في ٥٩ من عمره وخدم في البرلمان لمدة ٤٣ عاما سدى لم يسجل شيئا من التاريخ الا ما عرف به العالم اخيرا في نهاية عام ١٩٥٦ فقد ختم تاريخه ودنس صحبة دولة قديمة وعظيمة بدون نتيجة ، سار أيدن قد اجريت له عملية جراحية خطيره في الرئية لما كان وزيرا للخارجيه واخيرا اجريت له عملية مماثلة من الخطورة بامريكا سار ايدن قد تسلم مهام منصبه الاخير من ٢١ شهر اوكذلك في نشاط وشجاعة لم يقم بها وزيرا للوزارة وفي القسم الاخير من العام الماضي كذلك قام بقصف مدن الأبرياء والامنين الذين يدافعون عن حقوقهم وشرفهم فيوم تاسع يناير عام ١٩٥٧ هي يوم ذكرى سار ايدن .

خليفة ايدن

يوم ١٠ يناير باستشارة مستشاري جلالة الملكة قد اختارت جلالتها مستر مكميلن رئيسا للوزارة خلفا من سار انتوني ايدن وقد احتج مستر جرفث العمالي بان الملكة قد دخلت في السياسة وهذا امر خارج عن القانون وسيسبب ضياع قانون البلاد و ربما سيطلب حزب العمال المناقشة في الموضوع لان الملكة مالها التدخل وقد اختارت ما بين الاثنين

مستر مكميلن يبلغ من العمر ٦٢ عاما وله خبرة واسعة في الشئون الدولية وله ٣٠ عاما في البرلمان ولو كان هو في حزب المحافظين ولكن كان لم يوافق خطة ايدن وجلته على الشرق الاوسط مستر مكميلن كان جده فقيرا و يعاني البوس اخيرا قد نشاه دار للنشر باعانة احد اصدقائه وصار هذا الدار للنشر مشهورا في جميع البقاع وعترى كثيرا من الكتب والكتيبات مرسوم عليها هذا الاسم وضل من ذلك الدهر الى يومنا هذا بنشاط وعمل محمود . فبتنازل سار ايدن من راسة الوزاره يخفف الاحساسات السيئة في الشعوب ضد حكومة بريطانيا وكان من المعقول والسياسة الحصنة اجراء انتخابات عامة في بريطانيا كما طلب العضو البرلمان مستر جيتسكيل وجعل الوسايل لنصر حزب العمال على الحكم لان سياسة حزب العمال محبذة في جميع العالم ولا شك بتولية الحكم سيرضى شعوبا كثيرة الساخطة على بريطانيا واعمالها الوحشية التي قام بها ايدن وسيناسى ما مضى وتعود الصحبة بين الشعوب والكومنويلث مع صديقاتها القديمة بريطانيا مع التعاون التام بحسن النية والمودة والوفاء في جميع ما تعهدت به لاصحاب الحقوق والنظر في المستقبل الباهر لها ولاصدقائها وجميع محبي السلام

Ill.3b. *Al-Falaq* 23 January 1957, verso.

NEW SOCIETY 27 AUGUST 1964

YEMEN LETTER

The king's story

Despite the 1962 coup, in which it at first appeared that the royal house had been overthrown, the Yemen is now a country where two rival regimes coexist: Republican and Royalist. The coup, presented to the world as a liberal revolution, was a military conspiracy of army officers with the collaboration of the military college at San'a, its Egyptian instructors and its pupils, who appear to have been non-tribal town boys. In collaboration also with the United Arab Republic Embassy, Sallal (now Republican President, then an army officer) had arranged that Egyptian troops should land in the Yemen in support of a revolt against Imam Ahmad. Subverted Yemeni troops were posted to Hodeida, the chief port, to meet the Egyptians, and concentrated in San'a to attack the Imam. Russian experts already in the Yemen, especially those at Hodeida, worked with the Egyptians. In the early days of the Republic Russian pilots flew planes on the Egyptian side.

With the plotters poised for action, Imam Ahmad forestalled them by dying. His son, al Badr, to whom allegiance was sworn by the army, administration and *ulema* (theologians and doctors of law), including some of the revolutionaries, proclaimed immediately on succession his intention to rule in a different manner from his father. But his promise of reform and a rule more akin to a limited monarchy did not stop the military conspirators. They attempted to assassinate him. When this miscarried they attacked his castle with gunfire.

Al Badr told me the story of his escape himself. Smuggled out of San'a through a sympathetic but stupefied populace, with tanks searching the streets for him, he made for northern pro-Royalist tribes. Men joined him at every village but their weapons and ammunition were pitifully few. Vigorously pursued by planes flown by Russians and Egyptians who long sought to conceal that he still lived, al Badr and his men were frequently strafed. Al Badr once narrowly escaped death when his tent was hit, but they reached the Saudi frontier.

How the Royalists made their comeback in the Yemen I am still uncertain, but the evidence before my eyes showed that the Egyptians had advanced well on their way to Najran on the eastern Saudi border. The names of Saudi cities on their tanks leave no doubt of their designs on Saudi Arabia's oil riches. However, with arms and supplies which must have come through Saudi Arabia, the Royalists thrust back the Egyptians until, about the end of last year, they were in a favourable position—despite their total lack of tanks, armoured vehicles and planes, and with world opinion, influenced by the barrage of anti-Royalist propaganda, against them.

Royalist-held Yemen is a theocratic state in concept. The ruling dynasty belongs to the Shi'ite branch of Islam and holds that the office of Imam (king) must be filled by a properly qualified descendant of the Prophet Mohammed. The population of the northern, more mountainous part of the Yemen is Shi'ite (the sect known as Zaydi), the southern part belongs to the rival Sunnite branch (the Shafi'i sect), but there is little practical difference between the two sects, and the leader of prayer may belong to either. Nor, in principle, are Shafi'is averse to an Imam of the Prophet's House, which they also reverence. But they would not concur that the Imam must be of the Prophet's House *and no other*, while many resent the privileges arrogated to themselves by the Prophet's numerous descendants.

The true difference between Zaydis and Shafi'is lies between the proud warlike tribes of the high mountains and the less warlike tribes, or unarmed cultivators of the Lower Yemen, along with the mixed peoples (negroid in part) of the coastal Tihama plain. The Shafi'is complained they were dominated and oppressed by the Imam's Zaydi troops and officials and wished to participate more fully in the administration. They also demanded that malpractices in customs and taxation should be removed. Under President Sallal's Republican government this has not been done and additional taxes have been introduced.

The Zaydi tribes are devoted to the Prophet's House which has *hijrah* with them, i.e. the tribes must fight for and defend it, otherwise on Judgment Day the Prophet, when asked to intercede for them, will say "You did not protect my children when they were oppressed, should I then intercede with God for you?" The extent to which they will support a Zaydi prince depends on his personal qualities, and many Zaydi princes are brave, attractive men who know how to win over chief and tribesman.

So Royalist forces are largely Zaydi, but I have met also quite a number of Shafi'is, and some anti-Republican tribes like the Abidah of Marib district are entirely Shafi'i. The Zaydis have been fairly reliably estimated at approximately 55 per cent of the population, the Shafi'is at 45 per cent.

For the Prophet's House it was disastrous that after the collapse of the liberal revolution of 1948 Prince Ahmad, known to be cruel, grasping and unprincipled, managed to seize the Imamate. His tyranny is deplored by Royalists no less than Republicans, and by none more than his son, the present Imam al Badr, who with other Royalist statesmen is resolved on a programme of reform to follow victory. Al Badr himself is a contrast to Ahmad; intelligent like his father, but reflective and of liberal political outlook; a pleasant and informal person.

Attracted by the Egypt of the revolution, he introduced Egyptians into the Yemen in several capacities, including that of instructor at the San'a military college. Looking abroad for financial and military aid he found a ready response in Russia and the Iron Curtain countries, to his present bitter regret. During his father's prolonged absence for medical treatment in Italy al Badr attempted to reform the administration. Imam Ahmad, however, returning by way of Egypt, had a stormy meeting with President Nasser, when he is reported to have said "We have Egyptian guests in the Yemen. I ask you to withdraw them before we send them back to you". Al Badr's reforms he at once swept away.

During Imam Ahmad's reign al Badr came to rely greatly on the army officer, Sallal, who had formerly served a period in prison for complicity in intrigues against the throne. Al Badr stood by him, and at least once dissuaded Imam Ahmad from executing him. Sallal used al Badr's friendship to intrigue further against the royal house.

President Sallal is the son of a San'a butcher, which commends him to the press on both sides of the Iron Curtain for the role of poor boy made good. In the Yemen this is viewed quite differently. The arms bearing tribes, the most important political element and bulk of the population, can never willingly or in honour accept a despised "market boy" to rule and mediate between them in place of a noble of the Prophet's House whose proper function they think this is. Sallal was brought up as a member of the Zaydi sect but is said to have little religion (in a country where traditional Islam is strong) and his lowly origin helps to explain his hostility to the Saiyids—the aristocratic members of the Prophet's House who traditionally provide Yemen's scholars, writers, theologians and administrators. The Republicans have butchered them wholesale, throwing their bodies down the wells of San'a.

Republican supporters likewise are "children of the market": merchants, small shopowners, labourers and drifters. The Hujariyah district of the Lower Yemen, which supplies much of the floating labour of Aden, is also pro-Republican. On the other hand the general population of San'a and Hodeida are hostile to the Egyptians and their Yemeni collaborators.

The present Sallal government contains only two tribesmen, both with grudges against the late Imam Ahmad. Part of the Hashid tribe, normally defenders of the Imams, is hostile to the Royalists because Ahmad executed two Hashid chiefs, so that a blood feud with Ahmad's heir, al Badr, remains. With some of the tribes, however, money can affect loyalty and it is believed that the £10 million the Russians gave Sallal for industrial development is being drawn on to buy the temporary loyalty of such tribes as will accept the bribe.

I found in the fighting tribes of the Imam a national movement to liberate the Yemen from what they satirically dub "Pharaonic colonialism". They also feel a strong repugnance to Nasserite socialism. My many enquiries convince me that most of the Yemen is on their side. The Republican regime is largely discredited and finds sympathy—helped on by radio propaganda—mainly outside the Yemen in Aden and its dependencies. What restrains a general Yemeni tribal rising to expel the invaders is fear that Russian planes will arrive. Even this does not stop a number of important tribes from active support of the Imam. Such tribes as the Abidah, having lost everything, are ready to go into battle whenever the opportunity offers.

Some months ago the Egyptians held only certain strongpoints, towns, and main roads during daytime. But their fighting technique has altered and they use a screen of Republicans, mostly from the Lower Yemen, to cover their movements. There is little trust between these troops and the Egyptians. The Royalists have lost some ground, notably at Jabal Miswar where the Royalists had to go into battle with only 10 rounds per man as a result of the arms supply situation. However, the campaign is not a question of simply holding lines: the Royalists have been firing into San'a well inside the Egyptian line of strongpoints. I found the Royalist troops in good heart and confident in the justice of their cause. The ultimate outcome of their struggle cannot be foretold, but with air parity, not entirely an impossibility, the Egyptian occupation would not last long. With their departure the Republic would lose its main prop.

Just as the Yemen consists of numerous tribal units, communities, and towns loosely united under the centralized authority of the Imam, so British influence gives some coherence to the Aden Protectorates. Thirty years ago the hundreds of small units, normally warring with each other, closed the country to development. Since then the Aden government by a mixture of persuasion, financial aid, and in the last resort force, has created a limited number of centrally administered districts. The policy of federating these districts, including Aden colony, has now been introduced.

Just criticisms may be made of government policy, but in 25 years I have witnessed immense improvements in the standard of living, prosperity, and health. Health certainly, nutrition possibly, are of higher standard than in Egyptian villages. The social structure resembles that of the Yemen, but one state only has a ruler of the Prophet's House. The rulers have been much criticized as "reactionary feudalists". They have their virtues and their undeniable shortcomings. But the social structure of the country ensures the freedom of the tribespeople, even a kind of democracy, and there is freedom of speech.

The sultanates undergo incursions by "dissidents". At a meeting with these dissidents some months ago the Egyptian commander-in-chief in the Yemen promised to supply them with arms, warning them that neither Egyptian planes nor troops would attack the Protectorates, but once the dissidents took action, Egypt would attack Britain through them at the United Nations. The Aden authorities and the Yemen Royalists have the same opponent.

R. B. Serjeant

Ill.4. Article by Serjeant, "Yemen Letter—The King's Story", *New Society Magazine* 27 August 1964 © New Statesman.[15]

IV. A future cataloguing project?

With the work done so far on the fonds, the foundations are laid for a cataloguing project. There is now an inventory in addition to the existing top-level description[16] produced in 2007, and the papers have been now properly re-housed.

To complete the cataloguing process, one would still need to appraise and arrange the papers, to create a description of each archival unit, and to number the

[15] Many thanks to the New Statesman for granting permission to reproduce the article.

[16] University of Edinburgh, *Papers of Professor Robert Bertram Serjeant,* Coll-1062, 2007, (last updated in 2018), in: https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/resources/537 [accessed 26 July 2018].

items to produce a functional catalogue. The box-list is relatively detailed, but most files need to be seen by someone who knows Arabic, and who has the time and skills to do some in-depth research on Serjeant and his publications to be able to understand and contextualise each file. They would also need to identify each manuscript to make a decision regarding appraisal. Finally, they would include in the catalogue a bibliography of any publication about or based on the use, study, or analysis of the papers, *and therefore the author of this article invites any author of such publication to contact her*[17] if they wish to see their work listed in the publication note of the online resource.

As a conclusion, the Serjeant fonds is a complex collection for a number of reasons, and a project to catalogue it in details would require either an archivist with specialist skills, or a research student working under supervision within a solid professional framework. As it now stands, significant parts of the collection are available for consultation at the Centre for Research Collections[18].

[17] You can contact her at the following email address: Aline.Brodin@ed.ac.uk.

[18] More details, including practical visitor information, can be found on the CRC webpage: <https://www.ed.ac.uk/information-services/library-museum-gallery/crc>